



PATENT
Docket No. 22750-350

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor(s): Pfeuffer

Serial No.: 08/900,254

Filing Date: July 25 1997

For: FILTER MATERIAL, METHOD OF
ITS MANUFACTURE, AND
APPARATUS FOR
MANUFACTURING FILTER
MATERIAL

Group Art Unit: 1733

Examiner: Yao, S.

#25/V Day
7/27/00

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Michael Stimson

REPLY TO EXAMINER'S ANSWER

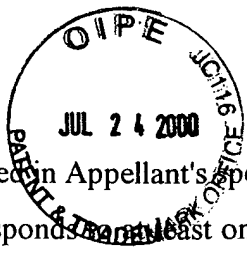
SIR:

This is in response to the Examiner's Answer mailed May 19, 2000.

I. Meyer and Narou Do Not Suggest Forming Spacers in a Filter Sheet

As the Examiner has recognized, Yamamoto is silent on forming "spacers" on a paper-like sheet. The Examiner cites either Meyer or Narou as providing the motivation for forming "spacers." This assertion, however, relies on an incorrect definition of "spacers." In the Examiner's answer, the Examiner has repeatedly equated "spacers" with "pleats." For example, in the Examiner's Answer, on page 4, the Examiner states that "Yamamoto et al. is silent of forming "spacers" (i.e. pleats). . . . However, it would have been obvious in the art of making a filter media to form spacers on the paper-like sheet of Yamamoto (i.e. to form a pleater [sic] filter paper sheet" Contrary to the Examiner's implicit assertion, pleats and "spacers" are two different things.

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As was discussed in Appellant's specification, "spacers are formed by elevations whose height corresponds to at least one quarter of the thickness of the filter material." In other words, the filter sheet is formed with small indentations in the sheet itself. These small indentations are the "spacers." This sheet with small indentation can then subsequently be pleated.

On the other hands, pleats are formed by folding the sheet itself to form a bend in the sheet. For example, Figs. 12-14 of Meyer show that the pleats are formed by bending the filter sheet into large folds. The sheets themselves, however, do not have any "spacers"-- i.e. "indentations" Accordingly, the Examiner's treatment of "spacers" and "pleats" as synonymous is incorrect.

With the proper understanding of the distinction between "spacers" and "pleats," it can be readily seen that the teachings of Meyer and Naruo do not cure the defects of the teachings of Yamamoto. Yamamoto teaches that it is undesirable to crimp the fibers-- i.e. that it is undesirable to form spacers. Meyer and Naruo do not even discuss forming spacers. Accordingly, neither Meyer or Narou overcomes the teachings of Yamamoto, and the rejection of claims 1-4 should be reversed.

IX. CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's rejections of claims 1-4 are in error and must be reversed.

Respectfully submitted,
KENYON & KENYON

Dated: 7/18/00

By: Michael E. Stimson

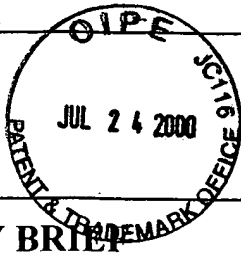
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PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

REPLY BRIEF
TRANSMITTAL LETTER

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Application Number
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Examiner
Yao, S.

Art Unit
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Invention Title
FILTER MATERIAL, METHOD OF ITS
MANUFACTURE, AND APPARATUS FOR
MANUFACTURING FILTER MATERIAL

Inventor(s)
Pfeuffer

Address to:
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Sir:

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